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Introduction

He steps up to the plate, his jaw set firmly. Tens of thousands watch quietly as he lifts the heavy bat, waiting for that powerful swing. He takes a deep breath before launching the tiny sphere into orbit. CRACK!

Missouri's air sustains us in everything we do. Whether working in a garden, waiting for a bus or hitting homeruns, clean air provides us life energy. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Air Pollution Control Program (APCP) continues to look for new ways to improve the quality of air for Missouri's residents.

As Missouri begins a new millennium, APCP will once again rely upon the support of citizens, businesses, industry and federal, state and local governments to keep the air clean for all Missouri's residents. APCP hopes that you will continue monitoring rules and legislation regarding air pollution, and contact us when you have questions and concerns. It is also important that citizens inform DNR of unusual odors, emissions or smoke. To provide clean air across the state, it will take an active involvement by all Missouri citizens. Through regular tune-ups, use of low-solvent products, composting of yard waste and proper disposal of waste that cannot be composted, each person's contribution is multiplied. Equally important, we must learn to use energy more efficiently. Energy consumption is directly related to most air quality problems. The more gasoline and electricity we use, the greater the burden we place on our air.



Missouri's air quality has experienced a steady rate of improvement over the last decade. To continue this positive trend into the next millennium, Missouri will also have to balance the needs of the environment with the needs of industry. The state must examine ways to promote economic growth without compromising air quality, which means improvements will need to be made within existing industry. Missouri and the industrial community will have to work together to clean the air.

Everyone has a stake in keeping Missouri's air clean, and everyone can participate in accomplishing this goal. The next time your favorite powerhouse hitter fills his lungs, let's make sure it's with clean Missouri air.

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